551 Christian Lane

1709

Gilbert house

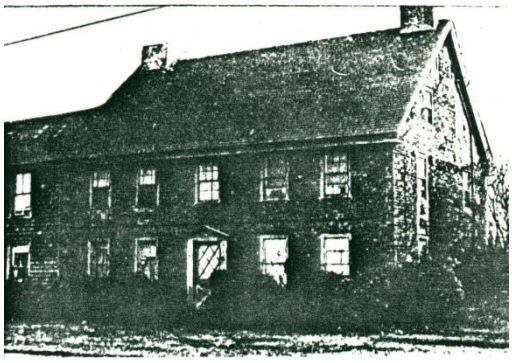
Torn down

1935 Susqui-Centennial Celebration of the Town of Berlin – Berlin Old Houses.

1709 Gilbert House current owner: City of New Britain Christian Lane

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 016

1800 current owner: Pania Realty



2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

Genealogy

Ebenezer Gilbert (1666-1736) son of Jonathan & Mary Welles Gilbert. In 1694 he married Esther Allyn (1676-1750). They were among the founders of the Great Swamp Settlement. They had children: Sarah, Moses, Ebenezer, & Jonathan. He was a member of the Kensington Congregational Church. In 1719 he was charged with a breach of the 5th commandment (honor thy mother and father).

Photos from Berlin Historical Society

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#016

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Town No.: | Site No.:
UTM:
QUAD:
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR | IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)

2. TOWN CITY: Berlin | VILLAGE | COUNTY: Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 551-3 Christian Lane 4-3/76A/2

4. OWNER(S): Panla Realty, 525 Christian Lane, Kensington 06037 ☐ Public ☒ Private

5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Vernacular | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1800

DESCRIPTION

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☒ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
☒ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☐ Cut stone Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☒ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)

(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ☒ Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 36' x 28'

12. CONDITION (Structural) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated | (Exterior) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations) ☒ Yes ☐ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN: Later wood frame left extension

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☒ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☐ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
The only surviving older house in a modern light industrial area.

016

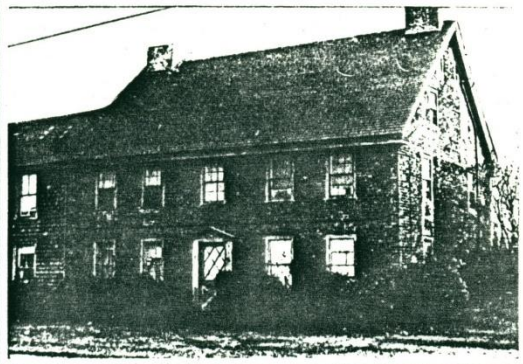
PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE
HRC		11/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
SE	G2	

COMPILED BY

NAME	DATE
Historic Resource Consultants	12/84
ORGANIZATION: The Colt Armory	
ADDRESS: 55 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106	

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:



DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

This brick house has a five-bay facade with a central entry. The brick walls are laid up in Flemish bond. The door and its detailing are recent, with a wide plain surround and a peaked molded hood. Windows are fitted with old 6-over-6 sash; first-floor windows have splayed brick lintels, second-floor windows are located immediately under the eaves. There is a brick belt course between stories which stops approximately one foot from the corners. The main roof cornice shows a partial return. There is a brick chimney at either end of the ridge. The right elevation has twin attic lights, with small peak lights flanking the right chimney. What appears to have been a cellar entry has been walled up with stone masonry. To the left is a (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT | BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house is significant as the only early house remaining in the Christian Lane area, the site of Berlin's first permanent settlement. The area is now dominated by light industry. The house was owned for many years by the Gilbert family, and a long-time mid-19th-century occupant was Moses Gilbert.

Architecturally, it is important as a good surviving example of a brick central hall house. The central hall plan, with its characteristic twin chimneys, was an innovation that bought more space, light, and ventilation into Connecticut houses. Common in urban areas by the time of the Revolution, it was rarely used in Berlin until after 1800. The relatively plain construction, steeply pitched roof, and the location of the second-floor windows under the eaves are (continued)

SOURCES

1855 Atlas
1869 Atlas

17. (continued):

two-bay, two-story wing clad in wood shingles and featuring 2-over-2 sash.

19. (continued):

all typical of early construction, and make it likely that the dwelling was built in the earliest years of the 19th century. The unusual front belt course was a locally popular feature, and is found in several other c. 1800 houses in Berlin.